

# Disaster News Release

## Federal Disaster Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all sizes

U. S. Small Business Administration – Area 2 Disaster Office – One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, Georgia 30308 1-800-359-2227 (404) 347-3771

Immediate Release – July 31, 2003 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ For More Information ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Contact: Matt Young or Frank Adinolfi

SBA Number: OHIO #3528 ☐ (404) 347-3771 (for media use only)

☐ ☐ ☐

SBA DISASTER LOANS AVAILABLE TO

### HOMEOWNERS, RENTERS AND BUSINESSES IN 2 ADDITIONAL COUNTIES

☐

**COLUMBUS, OH** – Homeowners, renters, landlords, and business owners located in Crawford and Pike counties are now eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loan assistance from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Disaster Assistance Program. These counties were added to the major disaster declaration issued by President Bush on July 15, 2003, as a result of damages caused by the severe storms and flooding that occurred July 4 through 11. A total of 8 counties are now eligible for assistance, according to the SBA Disaster Area Director Michael C. Allen.

Because the **SBA Disaster Assistance Program is the primary form of federal assistance** to those affected by a disaster, **most homeowners, renters, and all business owners will be referred directly to the SBA for low-interest disaster loans when they register for assistance.** If you receive a disaster loan application, “complete and return your application as soon as possible,” Allen said. “The sooner we get your application back, the sooner we can get started on getting you some help,” added Allen.

Allen warns that homeowners should not automatically turn over their insurance settlement check to their mortgage holder to pay down their mortgage. Doing this without a written demand letter from the mortgage holder will have a significant negative impact on their ability to get low-interest disaster loan assistance from the SBA to repair their damaged property.

SBA offers loans of up to \$200,000 to repair disaster damaged homes. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to replace personal property. Loans to businesses and non-profit organizations of up to \$1.5 million are also available to repair damage to real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, etc., and for leasehold improvements. Working capital assistance is also available through SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. A business need not have physical damage to be eligible for economic injury assistance. Interest rates for homeowners and renters can be as low as 2.812 percent and 2.953 percent for businesses. Loan terms on all loans can be up to 30 years. Actual loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Disaster victims are reminded that to be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, including SBA’s disaster loans, they must first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). This one call will get people referred to the agency that can best help with their disaster-related needs. Even if you had some insurance, it is important that you register for this assistance.

The application deadline for SBA physical damage loan assistance is September 15, 2003; the deadline for economic injury applications is April 15, 2004.

###

Information about the disaster program is available on SBA’s homepage at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)